FISHING APPARATUS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for mounting and actuating a fishing rod. The apparatus is secured to a fixed surface such as a dock, boat railing or beach or ice surface, and a fishing rod is fixedly mounted at its handle portion in a conventional fishing position. The apparatus includes a powerful spring which is maintained in a wound and latched position whereby when a fish bites the bait at the end of the line, the resulting tug on the line releases the latch and the unwinding of the spring rapidly rotates the fishing rod upwardly about is handle portion. This rapid upward movement serves to seat the hook into the fish to ensure a successful retrieval and further serves to alert the fisherman of a bite, especially when the rod is unattended.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is intended to provide a new and improved apparatus for construction for fishing, more particularly for mounting and holding a rod during the waiting portion of the fishing process. It also serves to permit one fisherman to engage in multiple rod fishing and to alert the fisherman in the event of a bite on any of the lines.

In the past there have been a number of fishing rod holders available that maintain the rod in an operative position and snap the rod upwardly upon a bite at the bait. These devices have found particular application for ice fishing and in smaller commercial applications so one fisherman could simultaneously utilize a plurality or rods. While these prior art devices operated as intended, they were not without a number of problems and disadvantages. For example, many of them utilized a mousetrap type spring and latch arrangement requiring a very

large spring and moving it into an operative position was quite difficult and required considerable strength. In addition, if the spring was unlatched by accident it could cause significant injury.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is the general aim of the present invention to provide a new and improved spring powered fishing rod holder that is safe, compact, economical to construct and provide an ease of use that has not heretofore been obtained.

It is another object of the invention to provide a fishing rod holder and bite actuator that can be readily mounted under all circumstances including boat railings, dock railings and beach and sand surfaces.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will appear from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an exemplary rod holder embodying the features of the present invention; and, **FIG. 2** is a perspective exploded view showing the within invention in an unassembled configuration.

While the present invention is susceptible of various additional modifications and alternative constructions, illustrative embodiments are shown in the drawings and will herein be described in detail. It should be understood however, that it is not to be intended to limit the invention to the particular forms disclosed, but, on the contrary, the intention is to cover all

modifications, equivalents, and alternative construction falling within the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring collectively to **FIG. 1 and FIG 2.,** an exemplary graphic construction generally indicated at **10** is illustrated which includes a cylindrical housing **11** to which a conventional fishing rod can be **mounted** and which can also be mounted to a deck, railing or placed in sand or be driven into ice. In order to mount the housing **11** to a desired fixed support, a mounting bracket **12** is affixed to housing **11** which receives a removable post **13** which can be driven into sand or ice or clamped to a boat or pier railing before being inserted into the mounting bracket 12 and affixed by means of a retaining screw **14**.

In keeping with the objects of the invention, the apparatus **10** has to be provided with means to respond to a fish biting the bait on the hook at the end of the line and quickly moving the rod upward to secure the hook in a manner similar to a quick upward movement of the wrist of a fisherman holding a rod. This is accomplished by providing a spring loaded latchable holder for a rod.

As shown in figure 2, housing **11** is provided with covers **15** and **16**which are each provided with center holes **17** to rotatably receive shaft **18**. Inside the housing **11** a coiled spring **19** is provided having a tab **21** at one end which is received by a slot **22** in shaft **18** and a tab **23** at the other end which is received by a slot **24** provided in the side wall of the housing **11.**

In order to latch the shaft **18** in a position where the spring 19 is in a tightly coiled condition, a ratchet **26** is affixed to the end of shaft **18** passing through cover 16 which can be